

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 10110 110617Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

-----120026Z 004353 /72

R 110542Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1966

INFO DIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 10110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TH, PGOV, PINT

SUBJECT: RTG IMPOSES JAIL SENTENCES AGAINST MARCH 26 COUP
PLOTTERS

REF: BANGKOK 8718 AND PREVIOUS

1. PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWICHIAN USED HIS AUTHORITY
UNDER ARTICLE 21 OF THE CONSTITUTION TO IMPOSE PRISON
SENTENCES AGAINST TWENTY ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS IN THE
ABORTIVE COUP ATTEMPT TO MARCH 26. TWO SUSPECTS WERE
RELEASED.

2. NINE PEOPLE WERE SENTENCED TO 20 YEARS IMPRISONMENT,
INCLUDING T.V. COMMENTATOR AND NEWSMAN PHICHAI WATSANASONG,
AND FORMER SPECIAL BRANCH DEPUTY COMMANDER ANOP
PHUKPRAYUN (AT ONE TIME THE RIGHT HAND MAN OF THE LATE
POLICE GEN. PHAO SIYANON). SOMBUN SAPPHOKPHUN AND SIRA
DIRAPHAT, MANAGING EDITOR AND DEPUTY MANAGING EDITOR
REPECTIVELY OF THE THAI LANGUAGE NEWSPAPER CHAO THAI,
BOTH RECEIVED 15-YEAR SENTENCES.

3. FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPART-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BANGKO 10110 110617Z

MENT RAKSAK WATTHANAPHANIT, WHO WAS FIRED FROM HIS JOB
FOLLOWING HIS ARREST AND TWO OTHER MEN WERE SENTENCED TO
10 YEARS IN PRISON. FIVE MEN INCLUDING FORMER M.P. AND
SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SENI PRAMOT, WIRA MUSIKAPHONG,
RECEIVED FIVE-YEAR SENTENCES.

4. THANIN SENTENCED FUGITIVES SOMPHOT PIYA-UI AND RETIRED

MAJ. GEN. CHALOEM KHAMROPWONG IN ABSENTIA TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT. SOMPHET, MILLIONAIRE NEWSMAN AND PART-OWNER OF THE DUSIT THANI HOTEL, AND CHALOEM, A CLOSE FRIEND OF THE LATE GEN. CHALAT HIRANYASIRI, DISAPPEARED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE COUP ATTEMPT FAILED ON MARCH 26.

5. THANIN'S ORDER RELEASED DR. AROM CHANTHARASOMBUN, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, AND CRIME SUPPRESSION DIVISION DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, APPARENTLY FOR LACK OF EVIDENCE. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THE CONFISCATION OF 596,000 BAHT (ABOUT US DOLS 28,000) AND ONE PISTOL BELONGING TO THE ALLEGED PLOTTERS.

6. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, BANGKOK NEWSPAPERS OF MAY 11 REPORTED THAT POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL MONTCHAI PHANKHONGCHUN SET UP A THREE-MAN INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE ON MAY 10 TO INVESTIGATE THE CONDUCT OF BANGKOK METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSIONER LT. GEN. WICHIAN SAENGKAEU DURING THE COUP ATTEMPT. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTS, MONTCHAI HAS ACCUSED WICHIAN OF DELIBERATELY DISOBEYING MONTCHAI'S ORDERS CONCERNING THE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE UNITS IN THE CITY ON MARCH 26.
WHITEHOUSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BANGKO10110
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770166-0725
Format: TEL
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770572/aaaacjyy.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5cf44497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BANGKOK 8718
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2576277
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RTG IMPOSES JAIL SENTENCES AGAINST MARCH 26 COUP PLOTTERS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PINS, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5cf44497-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009